





MEMORANDUM FOR:  The Director

Executive Registry

74-7842

In view of the concern in many quarters about the usefulness of some of the more or less institutionalized publications for expressing intelligence requirements, we asked   to take a look at the Economic Alert List. The attached is his evaluation of same. If  reaction is typical of what we can expect from the field officers, OER has made great strides in finding a way of expressing its requirements without flooding the collectors with documentation.

  
Paul V. Walsh  
Acting DDI

20 Nov 1974  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000600170043-4

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000600170043-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000600170043-4

14 November 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Maurice Ernst

SUBJECT : Economic Alert List

1. I had never seen these publications before today. I evaluated them in terms of how I would regard them if I were serving in the field in any of three capacities: Ambassador, D.C.M., or Economic Counselor. For each of these I found them invaluable.

2. One of the most difficult problems in the field is allocating the time and attention of the staff to those problems which are of greatest concern to the mission as a whole and to the several Washington agencies.

3. The drawback of the old CERP requests was that they were so general. In my experience the Senior Staff always had then to make up its own list of the specific questions that needed answering if one were to understand the economy of the host country, and then the Staff had to formulate the specific questions that they thought were of greatest concern to Washington, hoping and praying that these were also the questions that were uppermost in Washington's concern.

Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80B01495R000600170043-4

~~CONFIDENTIAL INTERNAL USE ONLY~~

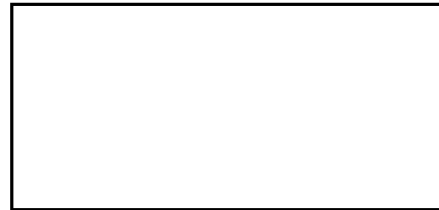
4. The great value of the Alert Lists is that the several items should save the mission a great deal of time and a great deal of fumbling around formulating the right questions. It is a check list of what a mission ought to be working on if it is to do its job for itself and for Washington agencies.

5. I especially like the way the Alert items were drafted: they were specific, custom-made, and relevant to the country. Some clearly filled in gaps, others sought local opinion. There were not so many questions that they would overwhelm a staff. The subjects could be farmed out in the field to whoever was best equipped to dig up the answers.

6. I would think any Ambassador, D.C.M., or Economic Counselor who knew his business would be delighted to have these lists. I would have a good hard look at any mission whose officers regarded these lists as a nuisance or "unnecessary."

7. These lists should go some distance to improve the quality, selection, and coverage of a mission's reporting. Every mission suffers from sending in reports and never

✓  
knowing whether they were ever read or used. It would help if the receivers of the reports occasionally took time to write an informal comment or criticism, ask for elucidations, query a position, or express a contrary view. In my experience nothing so sharpens an officer in the field as having someone on the receiving end take note of his efforts. The specific character of these items should lend themselves to a more fruitful exchange.



STAT